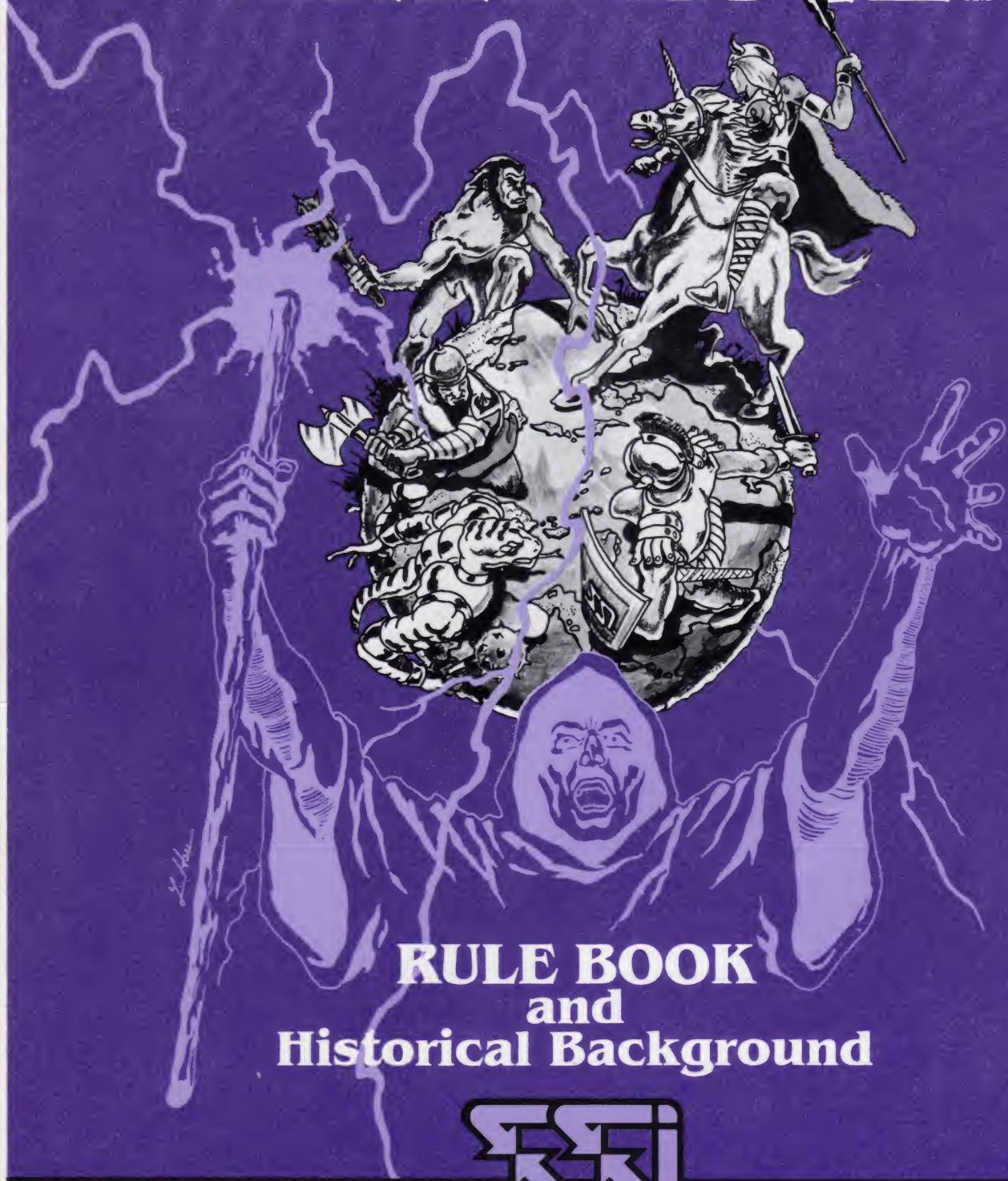


# Chronicles of Osgorþ THE SHATTERED ALLIANCE™



**RULE BOOK  
and  
Historical Background**



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

*The Shattered Alliance* is a tactical level simulation of the First Battles of the planet of Osgorth (for a description of Osgorth, see the introduction and history also included). The game is designed for two players. The computer also provides an intelligent solitaire player for interactive play.

### 1.1 MAP DISPLAYS

There are two maps which display the battlefield, strategic and tactical. The strategic map includes the entire battlefield; movement is regulated by a 18 by 20 hexagonal grid (hex sides are not drawn). On this map, only the unit type symbols are displayed. The tactical map includes a 7 by 9 hex portion of the strategic map, with both unit types and tribes displayed (hex sides ARE drawn). The player may select a particular portion of the strategic map to display as the tactical map.

### 1.2 VICTORY CONDITIONS

The game operates in this manner: both armies deploy and battle until one army's morale reaches zero or night falls after 144 time points.

### 1.3 STARTING A GAME (DOS 3.2 or DOS 3.3)

To begin a game; boot your game disc and the game will begin automatically. If you are using an Apple II with PASCAL, you must use your BASICS disc. If you are using an Apple III, you must first go into Apple II Emulation Mode.

### 1.4 SAVING A GAME

The computer will allow the player(s) to save the game in progress at any point. Simply press the "E" key and the computer will give appropriate instructions. If you

choose to save the game, you will need a blank disc to store the data. The blank disc must be initialized for SSI use by following the instructions included in the program. Once the game is saved, you will be able to restart it from the point at which you left off. When restarted, each unit will move once before the game continues.

## 1.5 PARTS INVENTORY

- A) Game Box
- B) Rule Book
- C) 5 1/4" Game Disc
- D) Two Command Cards
- E) One Morale and Scenario Data Card
- F) One Combat Data Card
- G) One Player Introduction Card

## 1.6 THE RAPIDFIRE GAME SYSTEM:

*The Shattered Alliance* is the beginning of a revolution in computer game design. SSI's new real-time game system, RAPIDFIRE, brings you an interactive game which is versatile, yet easy to play. Let's look at the heart of RAPIDFIRE, the movement system.

Movement is an important part of any game system. RAPIDFIRE is a unique real-time movement system which is different from the standard systems.

In the standard system, the game would be divided into a number of game-turns. An individual unit would move each game-turn for a variable distance. In this case, a light cavalry unit might move 5 hexes per game-turn in clear terrain and 3 hexes in rough terrain.

With the SSI system, the game is divided into a number of time-points. Now, an individual unit will move a constant distance (one hex) at a variable interval. The same light cavalry unit would take 3 time-points to move one hex in clear terrain and 6 time-points to move a hex in rough terrain. We believe RAPIDFIRE simulates movement more realistically than the usual wargame.

Combat and morale are also essential parts of any game system. With RAPIDFIRE only two units fight at any time. The computer calculates the attack strength for both units and determines the losses each suffers. The attack strength takes into account the armor and armament of the opposing unit, the tactical situation of the attacker and a random factor. This is all computed instantly and the losses are taken from each side. If a small number of casualties are inflicted, then the battle is generally a draw; if, however, moderate to large losses are incurred, then a winner and loser are declared. Here, morale becomes a factor in the game.

Victories and losses affect both the army's and the individual units' morale. Battle losses will lower morale and will eventually cause losing units to rout. This will lower army morale and result in the quick demise of the army.

## 1.7 THE CHRONICLES OF OSGORTH

This game is an introduction to the turbulent history of Osgorth. Located in the Andromeda Galaxy, the planet Osgorth shares with Earth the same primal forests, tall mountain ranges, blue glassy lakes, even its life-giving atmosphere. Here the similarity ends, for Osgorth has bred other sentient races such as Centaurs, Elves, the pig-like Hozgits and subhuman Zorgs. Since most of these unique races band together in tribes, all that these diverse peoples have in common are loyalty to their own kind and stubbornness.

In ancient times, Osgorth was divided into two kingdoms: Northwold, ruled by King Noran, and the Far Reaches, ruled by King Gavin. Between them they held the allegiance of all the different tribes. Then came the interstellar interference of the Moonriders and their Wizard, Ormolu who brought the touch of Magic to Osgorth which became the bane of both kingdoms and led to their downfall. Osgorth has now become a land of scattered tribes and fallen realms each vying for power.

Come... recreate the First Battles of Osgorth which lead to *The Shattered Alliance*.

## 2.0 GAME DISPLAY

### 2.1 UNIT SYMBOLS:

The symbols displayed below represent the Osgorthian unit types and tribes.

NOTE: Unit type symbols with a dot in the center have fire weapons.

#### TRIBES



Left Centaur



Right Cacodaemons



Left Dwarf



Right Dwarf



Left Elf



Right Zorg



Left Cavalry



Right Cavalry



Left Human



Right Human



Left Unicorn Valkyrie



Right Lizardmen



Left Hozgit



Right Wizard



Left Fanchon Fighter

### UNIT TYPES



Left HI



Right HI



Left LHI



Right LHI



Left MI



Right MI



Left LMI



Right LMI



Left LI



Right LI



Left EHC



Right EHC



Left HC



Right HC



Left MC



Right MC



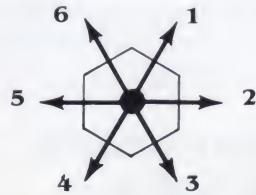
Left LC



Right LC

### 2.2 SCREEN DISPLAY:

NOTE: The letters below explain the screen commands shown on the game's video display. This information is always displayed on both tactical and strategic maps; here, the information is displayed on the strategic map.



A — represents the movement direction guide.

When a unit is displayed and ready to move, the numbers of the direction guide represent the direction in which that unit may move. Press the appropriate key (1-6) to move the displayed unit in the desired direction.

**101**

B — represents the time-point counter.

This measure the elapsed game time and regulates movement during the game.

12 9

C — represents both armies' morale level. When one army's morale level reaches zero the battle ends (see *Morale*).

HC B

D — represents the unit's classification.

The first group of characters represent the unit type (HC = Heavy Cavalry); the second group represents how well this unit is trained (training class). A is the best, D the worst:

Sh Lance

E — represents the unit's armor and armament.

If the first group of characters is "Sh", then the unit is equipped with a shield; Any other characters represent various weapons such as pikes, long spears, javelins, bows, two-handed axes and the like. Fire combat weapons are displayed after melee weapons.

1000 0

F — represents the unit's strength and battle score.

The first number is the unit's present strength in number

of men. Each unit begins with a set complement of troops, then casualties are subtracted. The second number is the number of consecutive battles lost without moving (if any) — this directly determines whether a unit will rout; (see *Morale*);

10.5

G — represents the countdown clock.

This times each unit's move; the duration can be selected by the player. Normal duration is 12.

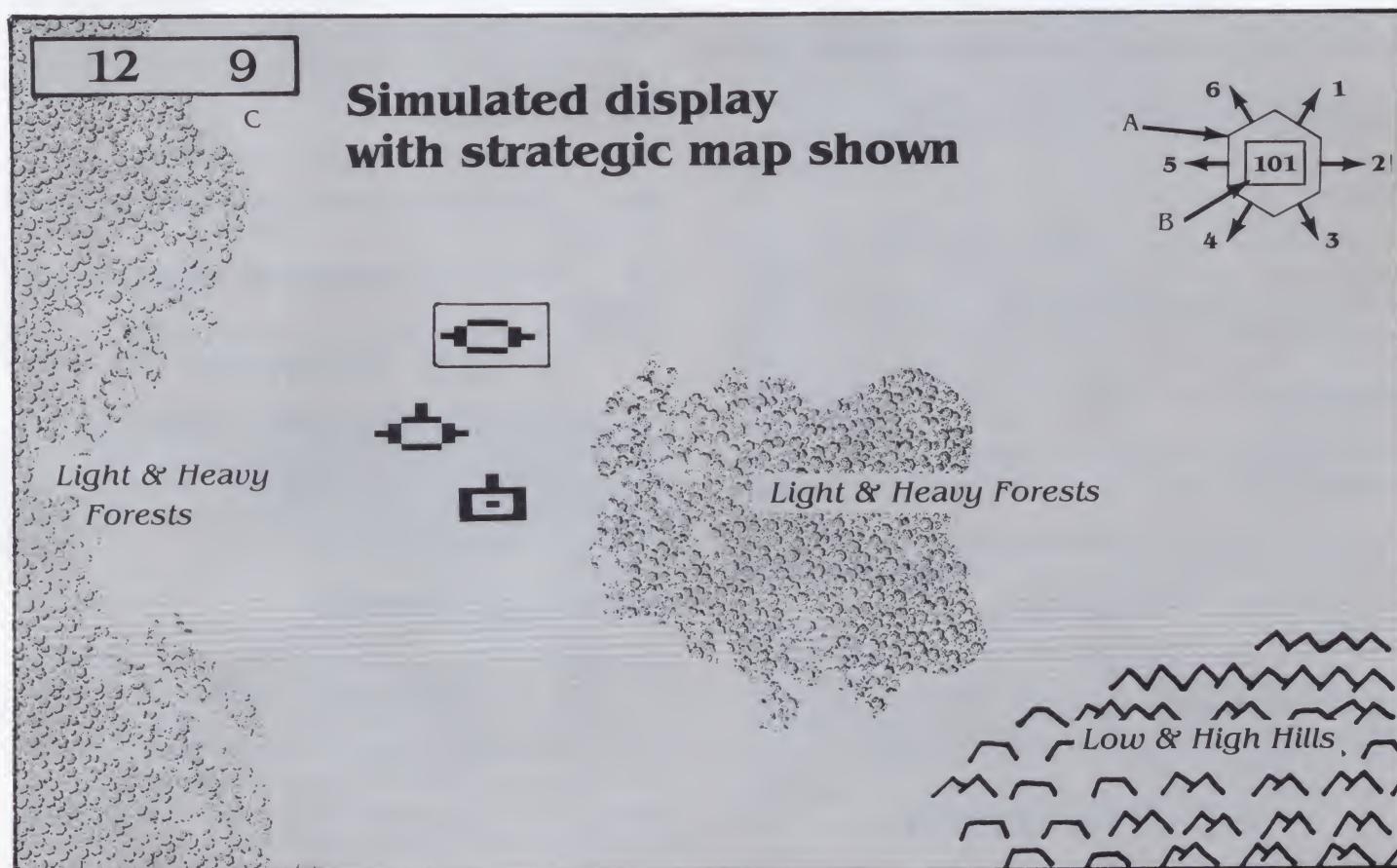
6

H — represents the direction (1-6) the displayed unit last moved or the command last given.

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS

**Time-Point:** One unit of time as measured by the counter on the upper right side of the screen. All movement is measured in time-points (light cavalry takes 3 time-points per hex, heavy cavalry takes 6, etc.)

**Move:** A unit's opportunity to move as dictated by the number of time-points it has to wait.



HC B D  
Sh Lance E  
1000 0 F

## 4.0 COMMAND CHART

**NOTE:** Normally, when talking to the computer, you will press the indicated key and then RETURN. Whenever the countdown-clock at the bottom of the screen is running, simply press the indicated key (no RETURN!).

The command keys for *The Shattered Alliance* are as follows:

### MOVEMENT

**Key 1-6** — moves the unit displayed in white in direction 1 to 6 as displayed on the screen.

**Key 0** — leaves the indicated unit in the same hex until its next scheduled move.

### AUXILIARY KEYS

**key H** (halt) — stops the game until the RETURN key is pressed.

**Key M** (map) — selects the type of map display. Then press either Key "S" for the strategic map or Key "T" for the tactical map (and RETURN). When the tactical map is displayed, the computer will ask for the row and column of the strategic map to be displayed. In the lower right corner of the tactical map, there is an indicator which shows where the units are placed on the tactical map.

**key E** (end) — tells the computer to save the game. The computer will prompt the player(s) for instructions.

### MAGIC

**Key S** (spell) — casts a magical spell. Then enter the number of the spell you wish to cast (Key 1-4, then press RETURN) and the number of spell points you wish to use (press RETURN).

### COMBAT

**Key A** (attack) — engage an adjacent unit in melee combat.

Then Key 1-6 and RETURN to select attack direction or Q and RETURN to abort. After a melee attack, a unit will not be displayed for twelve time-points.

**Key F** (fire) — fire missile weapons at a nearby unit. Then Key 1-6 to move the fire target in the appropriate direction, Key 0 to fire at the hex on which the target is currently placed, or Key Q to abort the attack.

## 5.0 MOVEMENT

### 5.1 HOW TO MOVE UNITS:

At the beginning of the game, time-point zero, both armies will move all of their units. On each time-point afterwards, the computer will determine which units are

ready to move and will light up a unit's symbol when it may move while the other units remain colored or gray. To move the indicated unit, simply press keys 1-6 to indicate the direction and the unit will move. There will be many time-points during the game when no units are eligible to move; in this case the computer will skip to the next time-point when a unit is due to be moved.

### 5.2 MOVEMENT DISPLAY:

In the upper right corner of the screen, there is a hexagonal pattern of numbers with a number inside. The hexagonal pattern is the movement direction indicator. Simply press a key (1-6) corresponding to the numbers of the hexagonal pattern and the selected unit will move in the direction of the number. On the bottom center of the screen, there is a counter, which counts down the time left for each unit's move. If you don't move the unit before the counter runs out, the unit will move in the direction it last moved.

### 5.3 RULES:

- 5.31 Only one unit may be moved at a time.
- 5.32 Movement and melee combat are not possible in the same move; fire combat and movement are. Fire combat must occur before movement.
- 5.33 Routed units move at the same rate as normal units.
- 5.34 Units may not exit the strategic map.
- 5.35 If a unit is routed, its opponent must pursue for one move.
- 5.36 Routed and pursuing units are moved by the computer.

## 6.0 COMBAT

There are two types of combat: melee and fire. A unit may only engage in one type of combat per movement round. A unit may engage in fire combat and move in the same round, but it may not engage in melee combat and move in the same movement round.

### 6.1 MELEE COMBAT

When one unit melee attacks another, the attack factors are totaled for both units, which determines the number of casualties inflicted upon each unit. Attack factors are determined by the effectiveness of the weapon against the unit attacked, the tactical situation of each unit, and a random factor. The combat factor and casualty charts are listed on the Combat Data Card.

### 6.2 FIRE COMBAT

Fire combat is similar to melee combat. The attacker's combat factors are totaled; if the defender has missile weapons with sufficient range, he will return defensive

fire. (See Combat Data Card.) Then the casualties are calculated and subtracted from the appropriate units.

## 6.3 GENERAL RULES:

- 6.31 Units must be adjacent to engage in melee combat.
- 6.32 A unit may only attack once per move.
- 6.33 A unit which initiates melee combat will not be able to move or attack for twelve time-points.
- 6.34 A unit may fire missile weapons at an opponent to a maximum range of three hexes. The type of missile weapon dictates the range; bows have a range of three hexes; slings (rocks) have a range of two hexes; javelins must be adjacent (one hex) to fire.

Only defending units with missile weapons whose range is greater than or equal to the distance to the attacker can return defensive fire.

- 6.35 A firing unit must be able to trace a clear line of sight to the enemy. (See Errata.)

6.36 If a unit is firing missile weapons with a range of greater than one hex, the player must select a direction for each hex between the attacker and the defender. Once the direction is selected the path of the missiles may deviate from the original direction by 1 only once. If the unit is shooting at a range of 3 hexes and the second direction is different from the first, the third must be the same as the first.

Example: A legal sequence of directions is '2 2 3'. The sequence '3 2 2' is illegal.

## 6.4 BATTLE RESULTS

- 6.41 Melee combat can result in one of three outcomes: draw, victory or defeat.

For a battle to be judged other than a draw — i.e., a victory or a defeat — one of the units involved must inflict 10% more casualties than it suffers AND cause at least 5% casualties on the other unit. The unit which inflicts the greater number of casualties in this case is judged to be the winner; the other unit the loser. If a unit, WITHOUT moving, loses more consecutive battles than its training class can withstand, it will rout. (see Morale Data Card)

## 7.0 MAGIC

NOTE: Not every scenario includes magic.

## RULES

- 7.01 Each unit has a certain number of magic points which can be used to cast spells upon itself or the surrounding area.
- 7.02 These magic spells are cast by magicians attached to the individual units.

7.03 Spell duration is usually one movement round (the time between the casting unit's moves).

7.04 Each spell affects the operation of one friendly unit only.

7.05 The computer does not display the solitaire player's use of magic.

7.06 A player may select more than one spell per unit per move. However, the last spell selected cancels all previous spells, unless the previous or present spell selected is a "courage" spell.

## 7.1 SPELLS:

- 1. Edge Enhancer — Each spell point cast adds one tactical factor to the combat factor total for melee or fire combat.
- 2. Shield — Each spell point reduces the opponent's combat factor total by one factor.
- 3. Haste — Each spell point allows the unit to move again at the next time-point.
- 4. Courage — Each spell point adds one point to the number of consecutive losses for morale purposes.

## 8.0 MORALE

Obviously, armies become disheartened by defeat and encouraged by victory. The problem, of course, is to replicate this during the game. In *The Shattered Alliance*, morale is measured on two levels: the army level and the unit level. Unit morale checks are made at certain times throughout the game (see Morale Data Card). A unit may rout, halt or take normal orders, depending upon the result of the morale check.

The army morale level constantly changes during the game. The level is affected by factors such as routing and halted units, battle results, or the destruction of a unit, etc. Changes in army morale affect both armies; a battle result will add to the winner's army morale AND subtract from the loser's army morale. If an army's morale level falls too low, it will sound the retreat and give up the field of battle.

## 8.1 RULES:

- 8.11 An individual unit checks morale at various times during the game.
- 8.12 Unit morale checks are made in this fashion: 3 six-sided die are rolled; the result is totaled and any morale modifiers are added (see Morale Data Card). The total is compared to the Morale Table (see Morale Data Card).
- 8.13 There are three possible outcomes of morale check. The unit may:
  - 1) Continue to take orders
  - 2) Halt for 20 time-points and refuse to take orders
  - 3) Rout

**8.14** If a unit has routed, it will stay routed unless it passes a morale check and rallies to fight again. If unrallied, a routed unit will not move unless there is an enemy within 3 hexes. Otherwise, once the unit is 3 hexes from any enemy, the unit will stop and try to rally.

**8.15** If a routed unit rallies, it may rejoin the battle.

## 9.0 TROOP TYPES:

The Osgorthian troop types during the period of the Last Battles were similar to the armies of Earth between the years 2000 B.C. to 1200 A.D. Often Osgorthian units from the Last Battles can be likened to famous units which existed on Earth (e.g., the Byzantine horse-archers, the Greek hoplites, the Roman legionnaires).

### 9.1 INFANTRY:

**LI or Light Infantry** These soldiers are unarmored, fight in dispersed order, and carry the lightest of weapons for mobility. Their weapons include longbows, slings, javelins, and small swords. They are used for reconnaissance, skirmishing (they are deadly with missile weapons), and ambushing the enemy.

Prime examples of these troops were Alexander's "Agrianians" — armed with javelin and shield.

**LMI or Light Medium Infantry** These troops were armed much like Light Infantry, except they fought in open order.

The best examples are the 19th century Zulu warriors, armed with shield and axe or javelin.

**MI or Medium Infantry** This class of soldiers was the backbone of many ancient armies. They were lightly armored (in leather jackets or the like) and fought in close order with pikes, spears or javelins. They were used for recon and main line infantry; also for holding flanks against enemy envelopments.

The best Terran equivalent was Philip of Macedon's Phalanx, equipped with pike and shield. The armies of the Egyptian Pharaohs would also qualify: they were equipped with javelin and shield.

**LHI or Light Heavy Infantry** Otherwise like Heavy Infantry, these troops fought in a more dispersed order than the "heavies".

The Greek "Hypaspists" (Shield Bearers), with long spear and shield, were prime examples.

**HI or Heavy Infantry** These are the classic heavy troops. These troops were heavily armored with scale mail (and later, chain mail) over their bodies. Generally equipped with a shield, they carried long spears or pikes for their main weapons, swords for secondary weapons. They were reserved for the main attack, and were extraordinarily successful.

The classic armies incorporated heavy infantry. Examples

include the Greek "Hoplites", with long spear and shield; the Vikings, equipped with spear, two-handed axe and shield; also the Roman legionnaires, armed with Pilum, short sword and shield.

## 9.2 CAVALRY:

**NOTE:** The cavalry types listed below did not use stirrups, until they were introduced in the 6th century A.D. Before that time, cavalry generally played an auxiliary role to the more numerous infantry armies.

**LC or Light Cavalry** A necessary part of every army; these are the scouts, skirmishers, foragers and raiders of the army. Open order troops, they are unarmored and depend upon their speed for protection. Often armed with light lances or javelins for raiding, they are also used as skirmishers with horse bows.

Two famous examples of light cavalry are the Bactrian horse-archers, armed with bows, and the infamous Mongols, equipped with bow or javelin and shield.

**MC or Medium Cavalry** When light cavalry are put into a close formation, medium cavalry is the result. "Mediums" wear leather or no armor and carry light lances, swords or javelins. They tend to fight as screening troops. Due to their lack of armor, and their formation, they are especially vulnerable in melee.

The Vandal army was mainly organized as medium cavalry.

**HC or Heavy Cavalry** These mobile shock troops were the backbone of many ancient armies. Partially armored with metal or bone and usually armed with heavy lances or javelins, their task was to drive the opposing cavalry from the field.

A famous example is Alexander's "Companions". Armed with javelin and shield, they were the finest cavalry of the age.

**EHC or Extra-Heavy Cavalry** The heaviest and most powerful shock troops of their period, they could sweep almost any infantry from the field. The troopers were heavily armored; often the horses were also armored. Since they were often armed with lances, they were the only cavalry who could break the heavy infantry of the day. The best tactic to break their charge was missile fire, which was used with deadly accuracy by the English at Agincourt. Otherwise, their charge was devastating.

The most feared troops of their day were the Byzantine "Kataphraktoi" or Cataphracts. Extra-heavy cavalry, equipped with bow, lance and shield, they were superbly trained troops and made many an barbarian shake in his armor.

## 10.0 SOLITAIRE

*The Shattered Alliance* includes an intelligent solitaire player capable of controlling either army in any battle. In

the Wizard solitaire scenario, the computer will control all units.

## 11.0 DESIGNER'S NOTES

This game is intended to be the first in a series. There will be two games (Battle and Campaign) for every important time period (Ancients, Napoleons, WWII, Space, etc. . . .). *The Shattered Alliance* is the Battle game for the time before gunpowder, i.e., sword and sorcery. It is based on my experience playing Ancient Miniatures using the excellent WRG (Wargames Research Group) rules.

The inspiration for the 'timing' elements of the game came from my friends who've said, "Gee, I'd like to play

one of those neat two-player computer wargames with you, but don't you have one that doesn't take so LONG?" So I invented the movement system that is at the heart of the game. The unique computer-controlled movement system creates the possibility of a game that will move almost as fast as the players can punch the keys. This is because the program update time is done on a piece/unit basis rather than on a player/army basis. This helps to create a real-time feel that is more like an arcade game than a traditional wargame. Most important is that it allows for two players to sit at the console at the same time. To make sure things wouldn't get boring I added a computer-enforced time limit on each move. I think the result is a game just as exciting as 5-minute chess and it's easy to learn how to play.

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## 12.0 CREDITS

**Game Design and Programming:** John Lyon

**Game Development and Rules:** Jeff Garaventa

**Story of The Chronicles of Osgorth:** Marcia Trusk

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**Typesetting:** Abracadabra Type

**Printing:** A&a Printing & Lithography

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We would also like to recognize the following:

Darrell Aldritch for Higher Graphics

The War Games Research Group for their excellent  
miniatures rules and army list

Milgamex for their excellent ancient army lists

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# Excerpts from the Chronicles of Osgorth

as recounted by Sidonia the Sage

The CHRONICLES OF OSGORTH were discovered by the Terran Expedition of 1169 P.H. (Pax Humana). Its leader, Marlys Elsinor, brought the 46 Tomes back to Earth in 1177. They have been a source of constant fascination ever since. Upon arrival, they were immediately incorporated into the ENCYCLOPAEDIA UNIVERSA and were first published for the general public in 1189.

The following excerpt is taken from Tome 12. Its subject is the First Battles of Osgorth; the author is the most famous historian of Osgorth's ancient epoch, Sidonia the Sage.

*It seems that everyone who can lift a weapon has taken to arms. In times of war common civility is forgotten. When the nether-villagers were forced to flee their homes they set fire to their crops so that the land would be of no use to the dread Zorgs in pursuit. This fire was started with the works of Rodrew the Craftsman. For generations the works of Rodrew have furnished king's halls. This is a lamentable loss.*

*Also destroyed in the wake of fire are andromes worth of original documents in the Tome Towers. I question the sanctimony of the commander who ordered this; I do not question his logic. When a fire is needed a flammable substance is required. Wouldn't a haystack have sufficed? Many of these ancient texts are irreplaceable! Who will sing this commander's praises or curse his judgement andromedes from now if someone else burns these present records for the cause of war?*

*It is an enormous undertaking we historical scribes have before us—to reconstruct the past of Osgorth by sifting through the ashes and the hearsay.*

*This task alone is enough to make a chronicler exchange quill for blade in the way the Valkyries did so many andromedes ago when they were attacked by the Zorgs in the Ambush of 690 O.R. This tale is reconstructed from notes gathered in the anonymous work entitled MEMORIES OF THE MEADOW MAIDENS.*

Under the cloud covered Mountains of Demeley where the coast meets the Heywood Forest dwell the Centaurs, Unicorns, Valkyries, and other wondrous creatures such as the Blue-eyed Zergzees. Their early history reveals them to be peaceful and content. There are no written records of the origins of the Valkyrie Maidens and their Unicorn mounts because they themselves kept no such records. They were deemed a flighty race whose only interest was frolic.

The horned horses were attended by maidens of exceptional beauty. These Valkyries were to the Unicorns as shepherdesses are to sheep. The Valkyries and Unicorns lived side by side with the Centaurs who often joined them in pursuit of pastoral pleasures.

The Valkyries seemed neither concerned nor aware of the marauding bands of Zorgs nor with the succession of kings that reigned in Northwold. It was accepted throughout the realm of Northwold that the Heywood Forest and surrounding meadowlands were Valkyrie territory. Access through the forest was denied to no one. Lizardmen crossed Valkyrie paths whenever they made

their treks down to the sea. Hozgits would herd their pigs under the leafy trees on their way to some of the large city trading areas. Even the primitive Zorgs moved freely through the forest.

The Valkyries never had strife with their hooved neighbors from the northern mountains nor with their western neighbors, the Fanchon Fighters. That strong tribe of women, the Fanchon Fighters, held secure the coast of the Black Sea. They looked little to their right for the peacefulness of the Valkyries was legendary. The Fanchons thought even less of any creatures who knew not the skills of combat. For the Fanchons fighting is a way of life as sure as the sunset each night in southern Osgorth.

At this time all the humanoid tribes (with the exception of the Valkyries) had aligned themselves with either the Kingdom of Northwold or the Far Reaches. Besides the Valkyries and the Unicorns, the only remaining unattached tribes were the fearsome Zorgs and the awesome Cacodaemons that dwelt along the mountainous eastern coast.

A rumor had filtered through the realm that treasure of untold worth was guarded by the Fanchon females in the shallow waters of the Black Sea by which they made their home. Zorgs are not noted for heeding rightful ownership before acquiring new possessions. They elicited the help of the ever ready Dwarves (ready whenever untold amounts of gold were at stake) and sought access to the Black Sea coast through the Heywood Forest. The initial Zorg scouts never made it through. The Valkyries saw them approaching, learned of their ill purpose, and warned the Fanchon Fighters.

The submerged treasure mystery was resolved more quickly than the tempers of the Zorgs. When the King of Northwold hinted that a donation of a small portion of such great

# Map of the Land of Osgorth



wealth would be welcome as added revenue for his kingdom, the Fanchon Fighters quickly repudiated the rumor. The matter seemed settled to everyone's satisfaction except the Zorgs, who have never been renowned for their intellect. The Zorgs' gain would have been nothing had they stormed through the Heywood Forest to reach a treasureless coast. Yet they carried a grudge and pledged the Zorg Vow of Vengence against the Valkyries.

The Zorgs waited until spring when the Valkyries and Unicorns head for the glens to celebrate the approach of the Planting Cycle. The Centaurs join in the festivities which include feasting, dancing-on-the-meadow, toasting with new wine, and musical plays. The annual celebration lasts all day and night and into the early hours of dawn. Thus the Zorgs had a whole day to infiltrate the Forest.

Unsuspecting Unicorns, hooves sore from overzealous prancing, and tired Valkyries were headed back to their homes after the long day of merrymaking when the Zorgs sprang on them from the trees. The brave Unicorns did their best to defend the virtually unarmed maidens against the Zorgs. The Zorgs had an easy advantage and many a maiden and Unicorn went down.

What would have been a slaughter was avoided by the intervention of the semi-sober Centaurs. As it was, the losses of the Valkyries and Unicorns were high. Their peaceful ways were marred by bitterness against the Zorgs. The Ambush of the Abominable Zorgs is also referred to as The Awakening of the Valkyries.

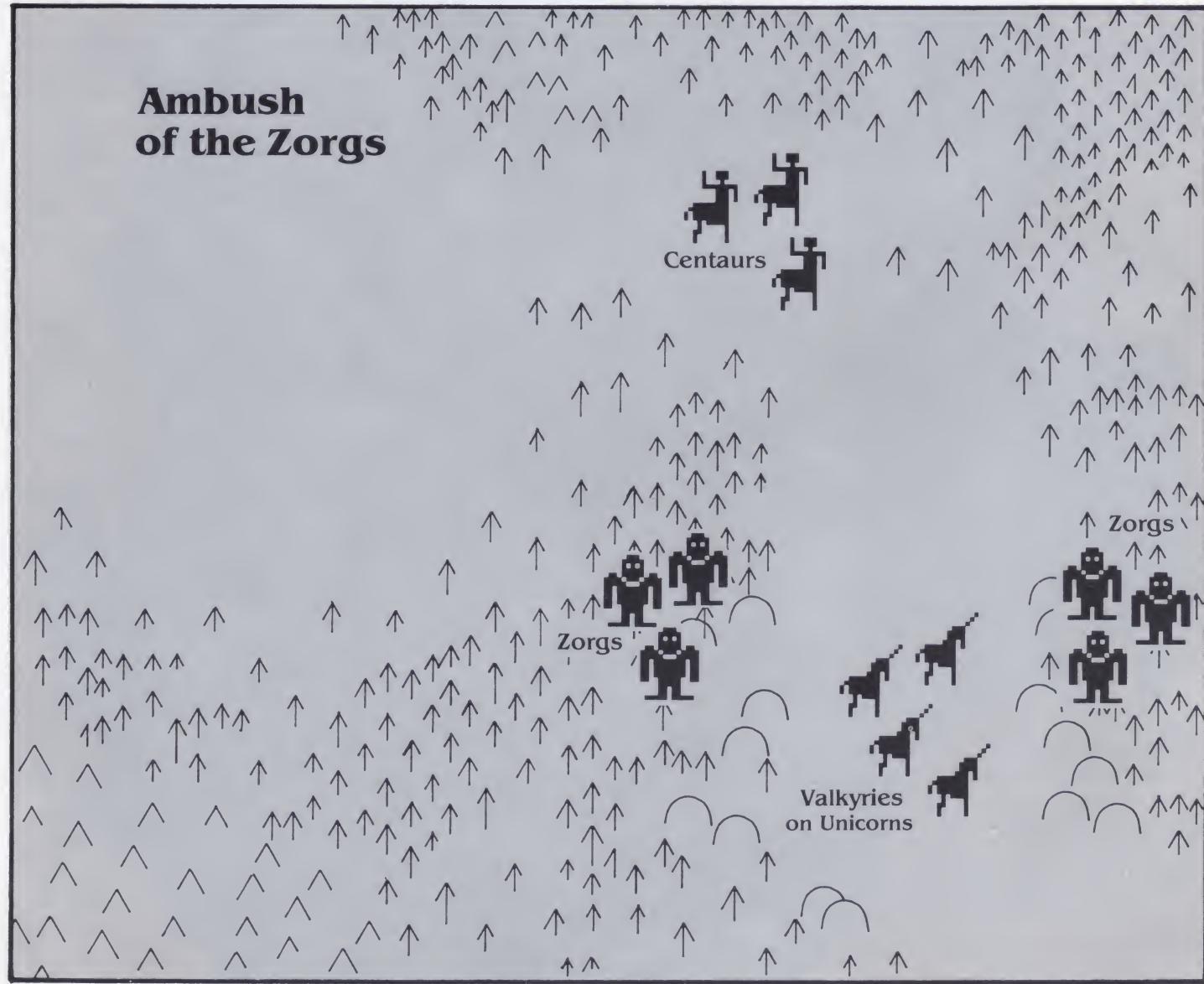
These once carefree meadow maidens sought out the help of the Fanchon Fighters who readily

schooled them in the art of combat. Tales of their determination spread through the realm and reached the ears of King Garrick (Father of the present day King Noran of Northwold). In exchange for their pledges of loyalty he had his famed mounted knights instruct the Valkyries in defense along with their faithful Unicorns.

The meadow maidens became legendary in their thirst for battle-wisdom. Once the only sounds that floated from the forest were musical reeds or voices raised in song. Now the woods resounded with the clang of metal as the Valkyries mastered spear and shield.

The Zorgs scoffed at these efforts and referred to the newly armored maidens as "meadow muffins." As the Valkyries rode out with their Unicorn steeds there was more sneering about the "horn-

## Ambush of the Zorgs



herders" being "as harmless as Hozgits". The Zorgs did not laugh long. The Valkyries' devotion to their training made them formidable. King Garrick called on them without hesitation to fill his ranks on many a pressing occasion.

The memory of these women as carefree meadow maidens is dim indeed. Their reputation as Battle Guardians has spread. The Valkyries have not totally severed themselves from their gentle past. It is with compassion that they tend to the slain of any tribe on the battlefield. It is said that they are attracted to those who fall heroically in battle.

*Other sources claim the Valkyries are emboldened with a special power that aids them in battle. Witnesses have attested to the fact that when the Valkyries ride forth on their Unicorn mounts, their armor shines with a strange light reminiscent of the unexplainable lights seen oftentimes in the northern sky. It was for this reason that the Valkyries were the first to be questioned at the initial sighting of the Floating Star in 773 O.R.*

*King Noran of Northwold and King Gavin of the Far Reaches once held between them all the strength of the combined tribes of Osgorth. Their time is passing and the peoples' loyalty has been splintered by Ormolu. (I would have it noted here that in many of the documents found in the Elder Archives Ormolu the Sorceror is often confused with the tribe of the same name... Of course this was before scribes had to pass The Test of Literacy).*

*It has been said that the appointment of Ormolu as Court Magician of The Far Reaches coincided with the fading of the Floating Star and the appearance of the new tribe which calls itself the Moonriders. The only remaining record of the event is taken*

*from the journal of Axel, Scribe of Northwold. The entry is dated Peredel-10 773 O.R., Fourth Cycle:*

A messenger returning today from the Far Reaches reported that King Gavin was aware of the bright new Floating Star seen of late over Northwold. King Gavin let it be known that this strange Floating Star has been sighted in the night sky over all of Osgorth. King Gavin also claims his priests predicted its coming by signs evident in the entrails of newly slaughtered unblemished lambs, by midwives' reports of more multiple births than usual in the kingdom, by disturbing dreams of foreboding, by the presence of goose bumps...

*Further evidence upholding this theory is cited from this later report by the personal healer of King Gavin:*

...heeds not the rumor that Ormolu the Sorceror is a member of those who call themselves Moonriders. The Sorceror denies this, saying that he is but a scholar of languages, this being why he can speak the tongue of the Moonriders.

The Moonrider who was detained here by King Gavin is something of a curiosity. When Lyn of Carolle questioned him about the phenomenon of the Floating Star the Moonrider did laugh and say that the Moonriders were the Floating Star! It was at this time that Ormolu the Sorceror was alerted to the signs that the Moonrider was suffering from the delirium of fever and ordered him quarantined until the exact nature of his affliction could be determined.

I would have attended the ill man myself but Ormolu maintains he has superior skill in dealing with plague victims. I am not familiar with this sickness and I do have pressing needs elsewhere...

*Sixth Cycle: The Moonrider died today in isolation. It is under Ormolu's recommendation that all contact with Moonriders be avoided until he can determine when we will be free from contamination.*

*Upon re-examination of historical accounts it seems clear that the Great Rending began with the breaking of the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship. Here follows an excerpt from THE RAMBLING OPINIONS OF SIR TANDY:*

The exact cause of the breaking of the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship has been debated for countless andromedes. It may be that the Zorgs raided less and less on the fortified towns in Northwold, thus dimming King Noran's wisdom as to their treachery. It may be that Ormolu, having the ear of King Gavin, whispered against the Moonriders, who seem of late to favor King Noran. Weaknesses have been cited in both kings' policies.

King Noran heeds the Moonriders who speak of harmony with all races, Beast and Human. They are the ones who turned him towards culture, fine arts, and music. The Knights of Northwold rely more and more upon their high stone walls to keep out the Beasts rather than upon their skill in battle. The emphasis on training has shifted. Swordsmanship and Horsemanship are still a heavy part of a knight's training, but more and more so are the Lyre, Pigment Painting, and Pleasant Discourse.

For once even Ormolu agrees with the Moonriders and states that peace is his ultimate goal also. He may be trying to pacify the Moonriders' protests against his introduction of Magic into King Gavin's realm. They are still muttering about "upsetting the Balance of Life on Osgorth's Scale."

If King Noran relies too heavily on the Moonriders then King Gavin relies too heavily on Ormolu's Blade Enhancer spells. I think it was against his better judgement that King Gavin finally agreed to sign the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship for which King Noran had been pushing for so many andromedes.

Since both kings approved this treaty, the tribes of both realms could do nothing but swallow nervously a few times and follow it. I will not here go into all the clauses of the treaty, but basically it recognizes the rights of various Beast Tribes, including the Zorgs, giving them the status of Humans; Beasts

were given access to all watering holes, unaccosted entry into taverns, and the honor of being bestowed with the High Sign and Greeting when Human and Beast should meet on the road.

*After many a well was fouled, tavern furniture broken up, and free citizens robbed before they could so much as utter "Have a merry andromede", many tribes rebelled and there was fierce rioting and discontent in both realms. Both the Knights of Northwold and the Hawks of Gavin were sent away more and more to quell disputes. Thus, with armies dispersed and the once allied tribes in severe discord, Ormolu took advantage of the moment to spur the Zorgs and Caco-daemons on to what became known as The Defeat of the Beasts. Discourse on this battle comes from the Oration of Waldemar the Mighty given in 785 O.R.*

It seems that the wisdom of both kings is waning. Gavin grows ever more dependent on the Magic doled out to him in small doses by that crafty sorcerer, Ormolu. And Noran, once so adept at keeping the fractious tribes at arm's length (or weapon tip) of one another has begun to stretch their patience with him and their tempers with one another by encouraging them to mingle more and more. Noran has become obsessed with the prospect of the Moonriders' "Harmony of all Peoples".

The time is prime for a great rending. What once was a solid two-kingdom planet is crumbling over poisoned words whispered sweetly into the ears of kings. The Beasts have taken advantage of the disunity that's sweeping the realm, growing bolder and grosser by the andromite. Look how narrowly we defeated them on the edge of Northwold!

After the signing of the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship, disharmony is

the only thing spreading in the realms! King Noran still openly extolls his longtime ally, King Gavin, praising his Hawks for their battle savvy. Privately I know he's being tugged towards secret doubts. He should listen to the warning that perhaps this new Magic is making his old royal friend too powerful. I think Noran takes too much pride in his own cultural pursuits, but Gavin looks barbaric in comparison.

*Another piece on THE GREAT RENDING, (a phrase coined by Waldemar the Mighty,) follows. It is dated 791 O.R. by C. Jacob.*

In The Far Reaches, King Gavin was reluctant to share his Magic with the changed ruler of Northwold, especially after committing the folly of signing a treaty with Beasts. Indeed even the very sight of Gavin's framed copy of the treaty on the wall was revolting to him. Beneath his flourish of a signature and Noran's skilled work of penmanship was a collection of inky smears that were paw prints, claw scratchings, and the print of a cloven hoof or two.

Gavin was growing impatient with Noran, thinking all his preaching of peace pointed the way towards early senility, a touch of the plague, or both. Gavin, too, grew overconfident with his position and relied too much on the help of Ormolu.

Noran, angry enough at Gavin's refusal to share magical powers, learned that the Moonriders had special knowledge of Magic but somehow had always neglected to mention this. Hot words flamed back and forth across the realms, fanned by the underhanded hand of the Sorceror Ormolu.

*As the inevitable war between kingdoms drew near, the Moonriders were issued an ultimatum: they must either add Magic to the other arts they nourished in Northwold, or suffer banishment. The Moonriders went sadly into exile.*

*After the first blows in the great Battle of the Two Kingdoms were exchanged, King Gavin looked to Ormolu for assistance. There was no one*

*there. Thus was the Treachery of Ormolu revealed. If there was one way in which everyone in these discordant times agreed, it was in their anger at Ormolu the Sorcerer. Ormolu knew he had fallen into extreme disfavor. He received the blame for every ill-boding political action and economic woe, as the texts of these scrolls, which were posted throughout the realm, reveal:*

**WANTED: DEAD OR DEFEATED**  
That most foul and traitorous, vain of thought, vile of action, sworn enemy to the King of the Far Reaches . . . He who calls himself the Sorceror Ormolu. Any being having knowledge of his whereabouts should report such information directly to His Majesty, King Gavin. Any being who conceals such knowledge or is caught harboring this Highest of Court Criminals shall have his lands duly confiscated, his family imprisoned, and a sentence of co-conspiracy and treason levied against him.

*Elsewhere in the realm:*

**REWARD:** For information concerning the capture and punishment of that most foul and treacherous, vain of thought, vile of action, sworn enemy to the King of The Far Reaches . . . He who calls himself the Sorceror Ormolu. It shall be awarded to any being: an added tract of land, the sum of 50 gold reachers, impunity from all past crimes, and exemption from all taxation for three andromedes.

*There are conflicting reports about the apprehension or destruction of the sorceror. Many tribes have claimed the reward for having brought about Ormolu's demise, but no valid document yet confirms any of these claims. Glydestride the Centaur has been quoted:*

For nearly an andromede our land has been crawling with bounty hunters, (mostly Dwarves), mercenaries, (mostly Dwarves), and anyone else seeking to do away with the Sorceror and collect the reward.

We've all underestimated this Ormolu. He is master of illusion. I know because I tracked him to the Dweller Glade. He knew I was following him. It was as though he were baiting me by beckoning me onward. Suddenly he raised his staff and began to mumble in that Moonrider gibberish. The next thing I knew I was surrounded by Ormolu. I swear there were at least seven of him! I don't know how he did it. The hoof is quicker than the eye, they say. It was Magic for sure.

Well, I barely escaped with my tail intact! Now those Moonriders have resurfaced. Apparently they've changed their minds because they've promised to teach the Centaurs a pretty piece of Magic. They say they know a way for us to charge this Ormolu at a pace faster than a gallop. Now there isn't a creature that exists that can come close to matching the speed of a charging Centaur, so that'd be some trick!

It seems these Moonriders are journeying from tribe to tribe teaching what magical protection they can in order to undo the mischief of Ormolu. I'm going to learn this Magic and have another go at him myself!

*We are embroiled at present in the Battle of the Two Kingdoms. The fighting grows closer to the Sheltered Cities every andromite. There are those who look to the Moonriders and say they are the cause of conflict in the realms. Others look to the Moonriders in the hope that their Magic will resolve the war. No one can yet predict its outcome. I only hope that I live to record it.*

— Sidonia

Here follows a description of some of the Armies, Tribes, and Races of Osgorth and their motivations taken from **Osgorth's Bestiary and Roadside Tavern Guide**.\*

**Cacodaemons:** a bipedal race of Beasts, taller than Humans. Cacodaemons are easily distinguished from Zorgs by the horns protuding over the tops of their heads.

Cacodaemons favor the spear as a weapon and boast of a very accurate aim. It is believed that they see as well at night as in the daylight hours. They are cunning hunters who make their home in the Montmery Mountains of eastern Osgorth. They rarely come down to the populated areas of Osgorth except in the wintertime when severity of weather and scarcity of game force them into the valleys or towns in search of food. They have been known to make raids on the inhabitants at such times.

**Centaurs:** a race, half human/half horse, that inhabits the highest peaks in the Mountains of Demeley. Centaurs constitute a large fraction of Osgorth's accomplished musicians, philosophers, and artists. They are also renowned for their skill as warriors. Young Human knights-in-training often are sent to be educated by Centaurs.

Centaurs utilize a variety of weapons, including maces, clubs, bows, and lances. Male and female Centaurs fight side by side in battle. Braiding the tail is the current fashion for the females of the species.

**Dwarves:** a race presumed to be distantly related to Zorgs. (But you'd better have your hand on your weapon if you dare suggest this to a Dwarf to his face!) Dwarves can easily meet most challenges with their battle-axes. They are unmatched in skill with this weapon.

Dwarves are considered to be the opposite of Elves. Where Elves prefer the sunlight and surface of Osgorth, Dwarves are content living underground. The contrast applies to their appearances, as well. Dwarves tend to have long noses and ruddy complexions. With their heavy beards and ancient faces, even young

\*This small volume was found in 1192 P.H. by a joint archeological expedition to the lost city of Namore in the Far Reaches. It has provided scholars with the best portrayal of ancient Osgorth. Here are a few excerpts:

Dwarves look like old Humans.

Dwarves are master craftsmen of metals and wood, and are excellent shipwrights.

It is said that the allegiance of Dwarves can be easily bought. They will fight on either side if the price is right — or so rumor has it.

**Elves:** as a race are considered superior to Humans because they possess keener powers of sight and hearing. Their ways are sometimes a mystery to humankind and many superstitions surround their culture. The Elves seem the most adept at utilizing Moonrider Magic. They took to it quickly, as if they had a natural penchant for Magic.

Elves are a race both handsome and fair. They have a childlike quality and are often mistaken for young humans. Elves are characterized as noble and honest. They have a reputation for being chivalrous in manner and for making good on all their debts.

Elves prefer sunlight to shade, day to night, and summer to winter. Elves are more active in the summer months. They are fond of sports and conduct many games. Elves are deft with the longbow. They are considered excellent horsemen and they train their own mounts.

In winter the Elves stay close to their forest homes and rarely visit the cities. With the arrival of spring they take to the roads again and mingle more with the other races. It is an Osgorthian omen of good luck to meet the First Elf of Spring on the open road. In ancient tales from the *Creation of Osgorth* Elves are said to have been put on Osgorth to bring joy to humankind.

Places of Elven influence are the Almon Woods and the City-on-the-Green. Many Elves also come from the Further Reach Forest.

**Fanchon Fighters:** warlike females who espouse a philosophy of freedom. Their tribal origins as women warriors goes back several andromes. Unlike the Valkyries, Fanchon Fighters totally exclude men from their ranks and territory. They dwell on the coast of the Black Sea.

Fanchon Fighters do not use horses. They prefer unrestricted movement on the ground, relying on the spear and shield.

**Fedran's Feast and Retreat:** located on the outskirts of the City-on-the-Green. This popular inn is frequented by Elves and Humans alike. It is run by a genial Elf and his

wife, a noblewoman of Northwold.

Fedran sets a good table and the cuisine is distinctly Elven. The proprietor is also an accomplished Harpist and with very little urging he will entertain his guests.

**The Hawks of Gavin:** trained Human troops loyal to King Gavin of The Far Reaches, recognizable from the battle hawk emblem on their shields.

**Hoof and Trough:** a Hozgit eatery serving a variety of corn-based meals. For a nominal fee one can have such palatable delights as: corn on the cob, corn off the cob, cormiller's mush, cornbread, breaded corn, creamed corn soup, cold corn chowder, sweet corn, corn pudding, corncakes, corncola. A real cornucopia of flavor.

*The Hoof and Trough* is also famous for its mosaic frescoes artfully done with several varieties of lentils. They are located in the market square of westmost Sheltered City.

**Hozgits:** a tribe as well as a race. These are pig-like herders of hogs, characterized by their long broad noses (resembling pigs' snouts), their coarse bristly hair, and their thick torsos. Hozgits have a curled tail like that of the animals they herd. (This can be seen only in suckling Hozgits as it is considered vulgar for an adult Hozgit to display the tail.)

Hozgits walk upright and have fingers and toes (not hooves, a common misconception). They do lack thumbs. Their four-fingered hands and four-toed feet are symmetrically splayed.

Hozgits are indeed akin to the animals they herd. There is an affectionate bond between hog and Hozgit. Hozgits use no restraints on their pigs, but speak to them in their own tongue and the pigs obey. The language of the Hozgits has been described as a cross between snorting and squealing. A person with a loud boisterous laugh is often accused of "snorting like a Hozgit".

The Hozgits group themselves in close-knit clans. They are the nomads of civilized Osgorth, packing up and traveling along populated routes. Hozgits are always a welcome sight due to their easygoing natures and large appetites. They are beings of many opinions, but they offer little if any interference in the Human affairs.

**Knights of Northwold:** trained Human troops loyal to King Noran; protectors of the realm of Northwold.

**Lizardmen:** a race and a tribe, a crossbreed of Reptiles and *Homo sapiens*. An old Osgorthian myth tells us that the race was born when a lizard egg was struck by lightning.

There are two varieties (tribes) of Lizardmen: Arid and Water. The Arids live in the warmer, dryer regions of Osgorth. The Waters live along the coasts and have a softer, moister skin. Lizardmen are tall with slender bodies and tails. Their scales vary in color from iridescent blue and green to purple. Females of the species have scales in hues of brown, and smaller mouths.

There is an association within the tribes of Lizardmen called *Mzliz*. These are independent females ("Lizardpersons" as they have called themselves since the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship, which gave them rights, too.)

These intelligent creatures were hurt by the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship. They resented being named "Beast" along with Zorgs. Lizardmen have never considered themselves to be in the same league with Zorgs. Indeed, a Lizardman would be greatly upset if his sister consortied with a Zorg.

**Lords of Lockwood:** a group made up of forest dwellers and dissatisfied Knights of Northwold who joined forces and revolted, wishing to establish their own realm within the collapsing ones.

This heavy cavalry is sometimes referred to as "the poor man's army" because few can afford barding for their horses. Though composed of renegades of the realm, the Lords of Lockwood forget their quarrel when it comes to Humans vs. Beasts.

**Moonriders:** offshoots of an interstellar race, who were responsible for bringing Magic to Osgorth. Moonriders are those extraterrestrial beings (and their descendants) who crashed on Osgorth many andromedes ago.

Moonriders hold that peace is the goal of all battles. They are a noble race who have a history of making bad moves with good intentions. Moonriders vowed not to interfere with the normal advancement of Osgorth except to undo the tampering of Ormolu. They reluctantly taught the inhabitants of Osgorth the ways of Magic in order to prevent a global takeover by Ormolu.

There are no distinguishing traits that would differentiate between a Moonrider and a Human.

**Ormolu:** is the name of an ambitious sorceror who was one of the

original Moonriders. He sought to set kingdoms and tribes against one other and intended to use Moonrider Magic to gain himself a world to rule.

Those Moonriders would not go along with a policy of non-interference in Osgorthian affairs joined forces and became an organization (tribe) known as *Ormolu*. "Ormolu" refers to any followers of the Sorceror Ormolu, whether they be former Moonriders or just ordinary citizens of Osgorth.

**Unicorns:** fierce horselike animals noted for the spiraled horn in the middle of their forehead (some cavicorn varieties), tamed by the Valkyries. Almost driven to extinction by the Zorgs in the Ambush of 690 O.R. The only place on Osgorth this animal can be found is in the Heywood Forest. Unicorns never leave this sanctuary unless accompanied by the Valkyries.

Legend has it that Unicorns possess the power to neutralize poison. The Valkyries are said to know this process, but they keep the method a secret.

**Valkyries:** a tribe of women who use Unicorns as steeds. They make their home in the Heywood Forest.

Many Valkyrie women of note have served as messengers for the kings of Northwold. They live peacefully within their forest, but are fierce fighters without. Legends of Osgorth say they select slain heroes on the battlefield (without regard to race or tribe) and do homage to them. They are easily recognized in battle due to their highly polished armor, shields, and swords.

**Windseekers:** (light cavalry) an offshoot of the Knights of Northwold. Windseekers wear only the lightest of armor are almost religious in their opposition to being held back or obstructed by weighty metal or slow-moving steeds. They have a reputation for movement as fast as the wind. And they charge into battle as if a hurricane were on their heels.

**Zorgs:** a subhuman race that fights for fun, sport and spite. Zorgs have never recognized the legitimacy of the crown nor the laws of the realm. They are savage primitives, coarse and unmannerly. For weaponry they rely on clubs and rocks.

Zorgs are fearsome in appearance with long teeth like those of dogs. They fall short of having the upright gait of Humans. Human mothers have been known to admonish their children by saying, "Stand up straight. You're walking like a Zorg!"

# GLOSSARY

## Osgorthian Terms:

**Androme** — one hundred years in Osgorthian time; relates to Earth's century

**Andromite** — a brief unit of time, an Osgorthian minute

**Andromede** — an Osgorthian year

**Cycle** — refers to the seasons of the Osgorthian year and the hours of the day. First Cycle = first hour of the day, Second Cycle = second hour of the day, . . . until Twelfth Cycle (noon), then repeats backwards: Cycle One = first hour after noon, Cycle Two = second hour after noon, etc.

**Reacher** — coin of The Far Reaches equal to one day's labor for the average working Osgorthian

## People and Places in Ancient Osgorth

**Ambush of the Zorgs** — in the Fell Year of 690, see also The Awakening of the Valkyries

**Awakening of the Valkyries** — see Ambush of the Zorgs

**Axel** — "the Scribe"; served in the court of Northwold throughout King Noran's reign. Author of *The Quest of Roanna*.

**Battle Guardians** — the Valkyries

**Battle of the Two Kingdoms** — a war fought on Osgorth in 792 O.R. between the realms of Northwold and The Far Reaches

**Cacodaemons** — a tall Beast race inhabiting the Montmery Mountains

**Centaur** — a race of creatures having the hind end and legs of a horse and the torso, arms, and head of a human

**Defeat of the Beasts** — took place in 785 O.R. shortly after the signing of the Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship

**Dwarves** — a short and stocky humanoid race

**Dweller Glade** — resort spot favored by Dwarven women within the Almon Forest

**Elder Archives** — original sections of the Tome Towers

**Fanchon Fighters** — female warriors who dwell on the coast of the Black Sea

**The Far Reaches** — kingdom in southern Osgorth

**Floating Star** — an unexplained celestial phenomenon first sighted in 773 O.R.

**Gerrick II** — ruler of Northwold, son of Gerrick I, father of Nolan and Noran, reigned from 680-720. (7th King of Northwold)

**Gavin** — King of The Far Reaches from 766 until the downfall of the realm in approximately 795 O.R. (5th King of The Far Reaches)

**Glydestride** — 756-?; Centaur philosopher, artist, and warrior distinguished in the Defeat of the Beasts

**Great Rending** — the downfall of the realms of The Far Reaches and Northwold in 785 O.R.

**Hawks of Gavin** — army under King Gavin of The Far Reaches

**Heywood Forest** — ancient broadleaf forest located in west Northwold, home of the Valkyries and Unicorns

**Hozgits** — piglike pigherders

**Lizardmen** — reptile-like creatures; it is unclear whether they should be considered Beast or Humanoid

**Lyn of Carolle** — philosopher and scientist of The Far Reaches, 756-?

**Moonriders** — a Humanoid tribe learned in Magic

**Mountains of Demeley** — mountains in northwest Osgorth extending from the coast of the Black Sea to west of Lake Sinclair. Home of the Centaurs

**Namore** — City in The Far Reaches

**Nether Villages** — villages midway between the realms of Northwold and The Far Reaches at the base of the Montmery Mountains

**Noran** — ruler of Northwold from 760 until the downfall of the realm in approximately 795 O.R. (9th King of Northwold)

**Northwold** — kingdom located in the treeless rolling plains of northern Osgorth

**O.R.** — "Osgorthian Reckoning" of the passing of andromedes (years) The Osgorthian calendar was devised by an eccentric Northwold nobleman.

**Ormolu** — "the Sorceror", rumored to be immortal; also the tribe that follows the precepts of Ormolu

**Osgorthian Treaty of Fellowship** — 775 O.R. an agreement granting all rights of equality to Beasts

**Peredel** — Winter month

**Planting Cycle** — season of Spring on Osgorth

**Sheltered Cities** — a group of walled cities east of Lake Sinclair under the protection of the Knights of Northwold

**Sir Tandy** — "the Factual", one of the Knights of Northwold, author of the six volume work *Rambling Opinions*

**Tome Towers** — structures which house the scholarly works and history of Osgorth

**Treachery of Ormolu** — the resignation of Ormolu as Court Sorceror of The Far Reaches in 784 O.R.

**Unicorn** — horselike animals with a spiraled horn growing from the middle of the forehead; found in the Heywood Forest

**Valkyries** — warlike women mounted on Unicorns

**Waldemar** — "the Mighty", 737-?; one of the Knights of Northwold; retired to become statesman and orator

**Zorg** — one of the Beast races; primitives



# THE SHATTERED ALLIANCE™

## PLAYER INTRODUCTION CARD

### HOW TO OPERATE THE GAME

You will boot this game much like any regular Apple disk. It will run with DOS 3.2 or DOS 3.3 without problems, but those players with the PASCAL system will have to use the BASICS disk to boot the disk. Once booted, the game will display a menu which gives a selection of scenarios. You are given the choice of starting the introductory scenario or a fantasy/historical scenario, restarting a saved game, or creating a new scenario. You may also view the different unit symbols in order to familiarize yourself with the types of units available (see Unit Types in the rulebook).

The game shifts to a different menu when you select a new scenario. You now select which scenario you wish to play; either one of the four fantasy scenarios (Key 1-4) or one of the historical scenarios (Key 5-8). The program will load and then the computer will display the armies selected.

The armies are displayed on the screen one at a time, in their order of battle. Each unit type and tribe is displayed as well as each unit's training class, weaponry and numerical strength. After this display leaves the screen, you will be able to select whether you wish to play a solitaire or two-player scenario. The computer will ask you to name the commander of each army. If you press Key "C" for one or both commanders, the computer will control those armies. You will also be asked if you wish to have the morale and combat calculations printed in full detail. Press Key "Y" to accomplish this.

If you decide to play a particular scenario against the computer, you will have to chance to select the skill level and size of the solitaire player's army. First, you will choose from two skill levels, beginning and advanced. Then, you will select the solitaire player's army size; you can choose a normal size army, or raise the training class of each unit by one grade and choose a normal size, 25% greater than normal size or double size army.

The disk drive will load the battle program and then ask which map scale you wish to see, strategic or tactical. Press Key "S" for strategic or Key "T" for tactical. If you select the tactical map, the computer will

ask you which row and which column you wish to start with. The computer will print the tactical map, with a square display in the lower right hand corner. The larger square represents the strategic map, the small rectangle represents the tactical map, which is placed relative to its position on the strategic map. The units are represented on this indicator by small dots. The tactical map also has scrolling capabilities; press Key "U" for up, "D" for down "L" for left and "R" for right, to center your tactical map position.

We suggest you use the strategic map for planning your battle, deploying troops and examining terrain. It is best used for an over-all view of the battle. Select the tactical map for combat (especially fire combat) and movement. Combat is much easier with the tactical map, as you can judge distances and positions better than with the strategic map.

Once you choose the map which suits you, the computer will allow both players to move all of their units, one side at a time. After the initial move, the computer calculates when each unit should be moved and displays it for movement at the appropriate time. At any time-point (time-point counter is located in the upper-right corner inside the direction guide), any number of units can move.

To move a unit, simply check the movement indicator in the upper-right corner to determine which direction you want to move the unit. Then press the appropriate key (Keys 1-6) for the direction in which you want the unit to move. If you don't want the unit to move, press Key 0. Pressing the space bar will move the unit in the same direction as its last move. The unit's last move is displayed at the bottom-center of the screen, below the countdown timer.

Now that you have pressed one of the keys 1 to 6 and moved your first unit, move the rest of your units in the same manner. You will find it very easy to maneuver your units to effectively attack the enemy.

Now that you're able to move your units, let's look at combat. Since the object of the game is to defeat the opposing army, you must attack it. There are two methods of attack: Fire combat and Melee combat. Fire combat is done at a distance with missile weapons;

melee combat is done with hand-held weapons when your unit is next to the enemy.

To attack a unit with fire weapons, your unit must be equipped with missile weapons and you must be in range of the opposing unit. Press Key F to fire on the opponent; the computer will ask in which direction you wish to fire. If you have made a mistake and cannot fire, press Key Q to abort the command. If not, indicate the direction in which you wish to fire. You will have to indicate the direction for each hex of distance to the target unit. Press Key O to attack a particular hex. The detail display, if selected, and the battle report will be displayed on the screen. Note that if the opposing unit cannot return defensive fire, the attacker will suffer no casualties.

To melee attack an opponent, simply press Key A and the computer will ask you which direction you wish to attack. Press Keys 1-6 for the appropriate direction or Key Q if you wish to abort your attack. The computer will display the combat factors if you have selected the

detail display option at the beginning of the game. Otherwise, the computer will jump to the battle report. This gives you the beginning and ending strengths of both units, the victory result and an indication of which unit has routed, if any.

If you wish to use magic, simply press Key S. The computer will ask you which one of four spells you wish to cast: Blade Enhancer, Shield, Haste or Courage. After you select the spell, it will ask how many spell points you wish to use. Enter the number and the spell will take effect. Remember, not all scenarios have magic.

To save the game, press Key E and the computer will instruct you in the procedures necessary. You must have a fresh uninitialized disk available to store your program.

If you have any questions about the game, send a SASE to SSI, 465 Fairchild Drive, Suite 108, Mountain View, CA 94043 or call (415) 964-1353. Good luck and enjoy the game!



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# THE SHATTERED ALLIANCE™

## MORALE

There are two levels of morale in *The Shattered Alliance*: unit morale and army morale. Listed below are the factors which affect unit and army morale and the procedures to change the morale levels.

### UNIT MORALE AND MORALE CHECKS

A unit can be routed by two methods. The first is by failing a morale check (see below). The second is by losing more battles, without moving, than the unit's training class can withstand (see Training Class Chart).

#### FREQUENCY

Morale checks occur under the following circumstances:

1. When a unit is attacking and its last order was 1 to 6 (a move order)
2. When unit is within 3 hexes of a friendly unit which routs
3. When a routing unit is more than 3 hexes from any enemy unit

#### PROCEDURE

Three AVERAGE die (a dice marked with the numbers 2,3,3,4,4,5, instead of 1,2,3,4,5,6) are rolled and their totals added.

Unit Morale Factors (see below) adjust this total.

#### Unit Morale Factors

- 1 Each 10% of Warriors lost
- +/-1 Each Battle won/lost
- +/-1 Each Friendly/Enemy unit within 3 hexes at time
- +/-1 Each Friendly/Enemy unit not in rout within 3 hexes at time of check

After the die rolls are added and the appropriate factors are subtracted, the Morale Table is read for the result.

#### Example:

Suppose that we have a B class infantry unit which has lost 20% of its men, has won two more battles than it has lost and has one enemy unit within three hexes. Three dice are rolled: a two, three, and two, for a total of seven. The computer subtracts two for the 20% casualties, adds two for the number of battles won and subtracts one for the nearby enemy unit. The total is six; a B class unit with a morale result of six will continue to take orders (refer to the Morale Table).

Note that if this unit had been D class, it would have halted for 20 time-points and refused to take orders.

### MORALE TABLE

RESULT	A	B	C	D
take orders	4+	4+	6+	8+
halt	3-0	3-2	5-3	7-4
rout	-1	1	2	3

### TRAINING CLASS CHART

TRAINING CLASS	BATTLES LOST
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1

A unit will rout after it has consecutively lost, without moving, the number of battles which correspond to its training class.

### ROUT MOVES

The routing unit will attempt to move away from the enemy.

### ARMY MORALE

Each unit is worth three points in determining the initial army morale level. (Exception: each Valkyrie unit is worth five points). The factors listed below change the army morale level by the indicated amounts. Note that each factor adds one to the gaining army's level AND subtracts one from the losing army's level. When an army's morale level reaches zero, the battle ends.

#### Army Morale Factors

- +/-1 Each battle won/lost
- +/-1 Enemy/Friendly unit goes into rout
- +/-1 Enemy/Friendly unit moves while routing
- +/-4 Enemy/Friendly unit destroyed



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# SCENARIO CARD

## MOVEMENT COST CHART

The values below represent the number of time-points between moves for each type of unit specified.

Unit Type	Terrain					
	clear	l. woods	h. woods	l. hills	h. hills	mountain
HI	12	18	24	12	24	30
LHI	10	17	21	10	20	29
MI	12	18	24	12	24	30
LMI	10	17	20	10	20	28
LI	9	15	18	9	18	27
EHC	6	19	25	7	xx	xx
HC	6	18	24	7	xx	xx
MC	6	18	24	7	xx	xx
LC	4	16	21	5	xx	xx

**NOTE:** The symbol xx means that the terrain indicated is prohibited to that unit type.

## TERRAIN SYMBOL KEY

Clear Terrain

Low Hills



Light Woods



High Hills



Heavy Woods



Mountains



## SCENARIOS

### I. Ambush of the Zorgs

The Valkyries and their friends, the Unicorns are ambushed at a festival by hordes of Zorgs. A massacre of the Valkyries is averted by the timely intervention of the Centaurs. Attack the Valkyries or defeat the Zorgs, the choice is yours. There is no magic in this scenario.

### II. The Battle of the Two Kingdoms

The two human kingdoms and their allies go to war in the climactic battle of ancient Osgorth. Northwold and its allied Valkyrie, Centaur, Elf and Fanchon Fighter troops battles The Far Reaches with the allied Lords of Lockwood and the Dwarves.

### III. Treachery of Ormolou, the Wizard

In this scenario, the wizard Ormolou is hunted by a group of humans and their allies. The searchers include human infantry and cavalry from Northwold and the Far Reaches, Hozgit infantry and Valkyrian lancers. The Wizard has the ability to create several illusionary replicas of himself.

### IV. Defeat of the Beasts

The humans and their allies gather an army to stop the chaotic Beasts from despoiling the countryside. The human army includes infantry and cavalry with Elvish archers, Dwarven infantry, Valkyrian and Centaur cavalry as allies. The Beast army is composed of Zorgs, Lizardmen (with a MzLiz detachment) and the dreaded Demons.

# ERRATA

## LINE OF SIGHT

Line of sight is blocked:

- When firing from a clear, woods, or low hill hex by any non-clear hex.
- When firing from a clear, woods, or low hill hex by a clear hex with a unit in it.
- When firing from a high hill or mountain hex by a high hill or mountain hex.

## RACIAL BONUSES

Elves and Centaurs have a +1 tactical factor bonus when using bows.

Dwarves have a +1 tactical factor bonus when fighting Zorgs.

Demons have a +1 tactical factor bonus during combat and lower the morale score by 1 of any enemy unit within 3 hexes during the opponent's morale check.

Lizardmen (and women) have a -1 tactical factor bonus subtracted from the combat factor total of the opposing unit.

Unicorn/Valkyrie units always move one time-point sooner than their unit type normally moves.

## DETAIL DISPLAYS

When you select the detail display option at the start of the game, you will be shown the morale and combat detail displays at the appropriate times.

## MORALE DETAIL DISPLAY

This is only displayed during morale checks. This display shows the various factors which comprise the morale result. The abbreviations are:

- Dice signifies the total of the die rolls used in morale checks.
- Close signifies the aggregate total of enemy and friendly units within 3 hexes at the time of the morale check.
- Dead signifies the percentage casualties of the checking unit; 1 factor is given for each 10% casualties.
- BS signifies the cumulative number of battles won by the checking unit; may be positive or negative.
- RS signifies the cumulative number of routs seen or experienced by the unit whose morale is being checked. A positive value signifies more enemy routs than friendly routs; a negative signifies the opposite.
- Total signifies the total of the above factors.

## COMBAT DETAIL DISPLAY

This is only displayed immediately before combat is resolved. The combat factors for each unit are totaled and displayed on the screen. The abbreviations are:

- WF signifies the weapons factor of the appropriate unit.
- TF signifies the tactical factor of the appropriate unit.
- RF signifies the random factor of the appropriate unit.

# COMBAT

## COMBAT FACTOR CHARTS

The charts and tables listed below give a step-by-step guide to the combat resolution system of *The Shattered Alliance*.

When a unit engages an opponent in melee combat, the outcome of the battle is determined by the number of casualties caused. This is determined by the total number of combat factors each unit has when fighting an opponent. The number of combat factors is the total of weapon, tactical and random factors the unit has during its attack. During an attack, both units compile their combat factors, casualties are calculated and a victory result is declared.

### Weapon Factor Chart.

	HI	LHI	MI	LMI	LI	EHC	HC	MC	LC
<b>CAVALRY WEAPONS</b>									
Lance	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	5
Javelin	3	3	4	4	5	2	2	4	3
Sword	2	2	3	3	5	1	1	2	3
<b>INFANTRY WEAPONS</b>									
Pike	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	6	5
L. Spear	2	2	3	3	4	2	4	4	5
Javelin	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	4	3
2 Hand	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Sword	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1

To fully illustrate this, let's look at an example as we proceed through the charts.

Let's assume a class B Extra-Heavy Cavalry unit, armed with lances, attacks a class C Heavy Infantry unit with pikes. To determine the total Combat Factors of this unit, we look at the Weapon Factor Chart. Lancers attacking Heavy Infantry have a weapon factor of 4. Pikemen attacking Extra-Heavy Cavalry have a weapon factor of 4 also. Next, we must check the tactical factor chart.

### MELEE TACTICAL FACTOR CHART

This is a list of tactical factors which may be added to units engaged in melee combat.

Note: All factors are cumulative.

+1 Bonus to the attacking unit  
+1 When enemy is shieldless  
+1 When enemy is shieldless MI or LMI

+1 Bonus to Dwarves against Zorgs  
-1 When opponent is a Lizard person  
+N Blade Enhancer spell where N is the number of spell points cast  
-N Shield spell where N is the number of spell points cast

0 to -3 Terrain differential; factors are subtracted from the unit in the appropriate terrain: 0 for clear terrain; 1 for low hills and light woods; 2 for high hills and heavy woods; 3 for mountains;

For this battle, nothing on the Tactical Factor Chart applies except the 1 factor bonus for attacking, which is given to the Extra-Heavy Cavalry. If the battle had been fought on different terrain or if magic had been used, we would have added the appropriate amounts to the Tactical Factor total. The Combat Factors now total five for the Extra-Heavy Cavalry and four for the Infantry. Next is the Random Factor Chart.

### MELEE RANDOM FACTOR CHART

+3 to -3 is the range of the melee random factor. Two average dice are rolled (2,3,3,4,4,5) and the second roll is subtracted from the first to produce the random factor.

A and B class units can have no random factor less than -1.

D class units can have no random factor greater than +1.

In our case, the computer generates a random factor of -2 for the cavalry and +1 for the infantry. Since the cavalry is B class, it can have a random factor no lower than -1. Its factor, therefore is -1. The infantry unit has a +1 random factor. The final combat factors are four for the cavalry and five for the infantry. To determine the total number of casualties we must now go to the Casualty Calculation Chart.

### CASUALTY CALCULATION CHART

Each engaged unit's combat factors are totaled. The combat factor totals are compared to the casualty chart. The percentage of casualties caused by each unit is multiplied by the same unit's number of warriors to determine the number of casualties taken by the opposing unit.

In this case, the cavalry unit has four total factors. By the formula given below, the cavalry has inflicted 10% casualties on the infantry unit. The infantry has five total factors and has inflicted 12% casualties on the cavalry. If we assume each unit to have 1000 men, the cavalry unit has lost 120 men, the infantry unit 100 men. Since the infantry has caused more than 5% total casualties on its opponent and has caused over 10% more casualties than it has suffered, the infantry unit has won the battle.

## TOTAL FACTORS CASUALTIES

< -1	1%
-1	2%
0	3%
1 to 5	2%+(f★2%)
6+	15%+(f-6)★5%)

f = total number of factors

## VICTORY CONDITIONS

### UNIT VICTORY

All battles are drawn, unless one unit kills at least 5% of the opponent's total force and kills 10% more soldiers than it loses. A victory is declared for the unit which caused more casualties than it suffered.

### ARMY VICTORY

There are two ways a game can end. The first is the advent of nightfall after 144 time-points. The second occurs when an army's morale level reaches zero. The army will sound the retreat and give up the field. At this point, each army's remaining (alive and unrouted) troops are counted (15% is subtracted from the retreating army's total) and the results are compared.

NOTE: For victory purposes not all warriors are equal. For instance extra heavy cavalry is worth more than light infantry.

If the margin is

	The result is
0-9%	Draw
10-29%	Victory
30%+	Decisive Victory

## FIRE COMBAT FACTOR CHART

The same method of determining battle results is used for fire as well as melee combat; weapon, tactical and random factors are totaled. As the chart below indicates, fire combat causes less casualties than melee. Also, a unit will never rout during fire combat.

## Weapon Factor Chart.

	HI	LHI	MI	LMI	LI	EHC	HC	MC	LC
Javelin	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Rks	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Bow	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1

### TACTICAL FACTORS for Fire Combat

- +1 Enemy shieldless
- +1 Enemy shieldless and MI or LMI
- +1 Elves and Centaurs armed with bows
- 1 Enemy moved last turn
- 1 Enemy is situated in light woods
- 2 Enemy is situated in heavy woods
- +N Blade Enhancer spell, N is the number of spell points used
- N Shield spell, N is the number of spell points used

### RANDOM FACTOR for Fire Combat

-1 to +1

### DEFENSIVE FIRE

Not allowed for units without missile weapons or whose missile weapons are out of range of the attacker.

## Guide to Weapon Types

### CAVALRY WEAPONS

**Lance** is the 8 to 12 foot thrusting lance used by many ancient units. The most notable Terran proponents were the Byzantine Cataphracts. The lance was also favored by the Osgorthian Knights of Northwold.

**Javelin** is the 4 to 6 foot javelin used as a missile or thrusting weapon. Horsemen usually carried several into battle, as multiple attacks depleted the trooper's supply. Notable examples are the Terran Mongols and Osgorthian Windseekers, both light cavalry units.

**Sword** represents the various other weapons that can be used on horseback. These range from hand axes and swords, to maces, morning stars and flails.

### INFANTRY WEAPONS

**Pike** is the 16 to 21 foot thrusting spear. This weapon was extremely effective against light or medium units and especially cavalry. The only Terran unit of note to carry the pike was the Macedonian phalanx.

**L. Spear** is the 8 to 14 foot thrusting long spear. This was the standard infantry weapon for thousands of years on both Earth and Osgorth. The Greek Hoplites and the Hawks of Gavin are famous carriers of the long spear.

**Javelin** is the 4 to 6 foot javelin or short spear. This is the standard infantry missile weapon, which can also be used as a thrusting spear for melee.

**2 Hand** represents two-handed crushing or cutting weapons. These weapons include large axes, swords, maces, flails, clubs or rhomphaia, which need two hands to be wielded. The Saxon and Viking huscarls and their Osgorthian counterparts, the Dwarves, used weapons of this type.

**Sword** represents any of the other weapons used by infantry. These include hand axes, small maces, swords, bows and slings in melee, etc.

### MISSILE WEAPONS

**Javelin** is the 4 to 6 foot javelin that many ancient armies used. The javelin has a range of one hex; you must be adjacent to use it.

**Rks** represents troops armed with hand-held slings. Slings have a range of two hexes.

**Bow** represents weapons such as the English longbow or the Byzantine horse-bow. Bows have a range of three hexes.



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# COMMAND CARD

**NOTE:** Normally, when talking to the computer, you will press the indicated key and then RETURN. Whenever the count-down-clock at the bottom of the screen is running, simply press the indicated key (no RETURN!).

The command keys for *The Shattered Alliance* are as follows:

## MOVEMENT

**Key 1-6** — moves the unit displayed in white, in direction 1 to 6 as displayed on the screen.

**Key 0** — leaves the indicated unit in the same hex until its next scheduled move.

## AUXILIARY KEYS

**Key H** (halt) — stops the game until the RETURN key is pressed.

**Key M** (map) — selects the type of map display. Then press either Key "S" for the strategic map or Key "T" for the tactical map (and RETURN). When the tactical map is requested, the computer will ask for the row and column of the strategic map to be displayed. In the lower right corner of the tactical map, there is an indicator which shows where the units are placed on the tactical map.

**Key E** (end) — tells the computer to save the game. The computer will prompt the player(s) for instructions.

## MAGIC

**Key S** (spell) — casts a magical spell. Then enter the number of the spell you wish to cast (Key 1-4, then press RETURN) and the number of spell points you wish to use (press RETURN).

## COMBAT

**Key A** (attack) — engage an adjacent unit in melee combat.

Then Key 1-6 and RETURN to select attack direction or Q and RETURN to abort. After a melee attack, a unit will not be displayed for twelve time-points.

**Key F** (fire) — fire missile weapons at a nearby unit. Then Key 1-6 to move the fire target in the appropriate direction, Key 0 to fire at the hex on which the target is currently placed, or Key Q to abort the attack.

BOW 3 HEXES  
SLING 2  
JAVELIN 1